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Letter dated 8 February 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you with reference to the letter dated 2 February 2017 from the Syrian regime's representative (S/2017/98).

Turkey categorically refutes the spurious allegations contained in the aforementioned letter and others to the same effect, as well as the statements made by the regime's representatives on various occasions. These are well-known efforts aimed at distorting the reality and undermining the documented facts regarding the atrocities committed by the regime that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In a letter dated 24 August 2016 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/739), we informed the members of the Council of the spillover effects of the Syria-based terrorism on Turkey and the measures that we had taken in response to the terrorist attacks carried out by Deash that had claimed the lives of hundreds.

The military operation that we initiated on 24 August 2016 against Deash, which has been directly and deliberately targeting Turkey, is essential in terms of ensuring our border and national security. It is also in line with the right to self-defence, as outlined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the responsibility attributed to Member States in the fight against terrorism through the relevant Security Council resolutions.

As long as threats to our national security continue, we will not hesitate to exercise our rights emanating from international law, in full compliance with the established rules and regulations.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Güven **Begeç**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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